

# Resolution



ORDER NO: 2022-0523

DATE: May 17, 2022

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 17th day of May 2022, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by John Wiley Price, Commissioner of District 3, the following Resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, Dallas County, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, Parkland Hospital and the Dallas Police Department have partnered with Homeward Bound to establish Dallas County Deflects, an interdisciplinary intervention agency committed to positively addressing and breaking the repetitive cycle of incarceration for those vulnerable members of our community burdened with mental illness and/or substance use disorders; and

**WHEREAS** The criminal justice approach to addressing homelessness often includes legal sanctions that result in disproportionately high arrest rates for criminal offenses such as Criminal Trespass. Enforcement actions create the perception of criminalization of the homeless, and have proven to be an ineffective method for reconnecting them back from the streets to society. It also contributes to the endless cycle of homeless persons from the streets into the criminal justice system or hospital emergency rooms and back to the streets; and

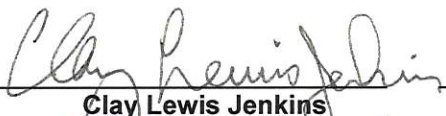
**WHEREAS** One method that has proven to be much more effective than what the criminal justice system has provided is a Crisis Respite Center instead of arrest and jail. A Crisis Respite Center provides effective mental health and substance use disorder services to people, thus helping them take the first step up the ladder of re-entry into society. Dallas County Deflects was established to provide wraparound services and support for our fellow citizens who face these challenges on a daily basis and have no other way to establish a support system; and

**WHEREAS**, The primary goal of Dallas County Deflects is to ultimately improve the lives of individuals living with behavioral health issues. It is important that these members of our community be redirected away from the Dallas County Jail and the criminal justice system altogether, and into vital rehabilitative services and resources in an effort to address their long-term core needs; and

**WHEREAS**, The success of Dallas County Deflects not only depends on the commitment of our political leadership and law enforcement, but also on our business and private community partners, our citizen leaders to support, enhance and sustain the important and vital mission of the Dallas County Deflects. Thank you to all the financial contributors who believe in and support this initiative – Homeward Bound, the A T & T Foundation, the Parkland Foundation, The Honorable John Creuzot, The Roman Catholic Diocese, The Texas Bar Foundation, the Mark Cuban Foundation, the Lydia Hill Foundation, the Dallas County Commissioner's Court, Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel, the US Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the United Way of Greater Dallas.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Dallas County Commissioners Court recognizes the opening of Dallas County Deflects and congratulates Dallas County, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, as well as partner agencies Homeward Bound, Parkland Hospital, the Dallas Police Department, and the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority. Together we will work to create a new cycle of recovery and treatment for a group of Dallas County residents who often have nowhere to go.

**DONE IN OPEN COURT**, this the 17th day of May 2022.

  
Clay Lewis Jenkins  
County Judge

  
Dr. Theresa M. Daniel  
Commissioner, District 1

  
J.J. Koch  
Commissioner, District 2

  
John Wiley Price  
Commissioner, District 3

  
Dr. Elba Garcia  
Commissioner, District 4